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minerals from Lancaster Co., and 8 specimens were presented by J. D. Sergeant, W. S. Vaux and J. C. Trautwine. There were also obtained 12 valuable minerals in exchange.

Botany.—The magnificent herbarium of the late Professor Short, of Louisville, Ken., presented by his family, consists of almost 300 folio volumes, containing about 6000 species of American plants, and between 3000 and 4000 species of European plants, besides a number of unopened packages of tropical American plants. The collection of marine algæ of the late Samuel Ashmead, a legacy to the Academy, is contained in 12 thick quarto volumes. Besides these there are numerous microscopic specimens mounted in the usual manner on glass slides. A collection of marine and fresh water algæ, comprising about 700 species, a contribution by Leo Lesquereux to the Central Sanitary Fair, has been purchased by the Curators, according to a resolution of the Academy, of Dec. 6, 1864. Two large fungi were presented by A. Cunningham and Violetta W. Miller.

Miscellaneous.—An antique stone hammer from the copper mines of Lake Superior was presented by B. A. Hoopes; an Apache Indian skull from Texas by Dr. E. H. Abadie; 6 worked flints from Abbeville, France, by F. Peale; and a plaster cast of the Neanderthal skull by E. D. Cope.

Respectfully submitted by

JOSEPH LEIDY,
Chairman of the Curators.

REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL COMMITTEE, For 1864.

To the Curators of the Academy of Natural Sciences:

Gentlemen:—Since my last report, dated December 17th, 1857, our Botanical Department has been considerably enriched.

First, by a full set of specimens from the collections made on the Colorado Mountains by Dr. C. C. Parry, Messrs. Elihu Hall, Harbour and Howard.

Secondly, by the magnificent herbarium of the late Prof. Charles Wm. Short, of Louisville, presented to our Academy by his family, on the liberal recommendation of Prof. Asa Gray.

Thirdly, by the handsome collection of Marine Algæ, bequeathed to this institution by our late fellow-member, Mr. Samuel Ashmead.

Fourthly, by another most valuable collection of Algæ, once the property of Mr. Leo Lesquereux, of Columbus, Ohio, presented by him, as his contribution, to the Philadelphia Sanitary Commission, and just purchased by the Curators.

To the above I will add the Texas collections of Dr. Lincecum and Mr. Buckley; the herbarium of Dr. G. Watson, and several hundred plants from Wisconsin and Iowa received from Mr. T. J. Hale, in exchange.

The greatest part of the Colorado specimens were either new to our North American herbarium, or duplicates (handsomer and more complete) of those collected by Mr. Nuttall, in his rapid travels over the Rocky Mountains.

The Short Herbarium is, indeed, the greatest acquisition ever made by our Botanical Department, and will constitute two distinct large herbaria: one of tropical, the other of extra tropical plants. The latter, already arranged by Prof. Short himself, on the same Linnæo-natural plan as our general herbarium, contains, as far as I can judge, about 4000 European and between 6 and 7000 North American species. Among the latter are many new plants to our Botanical Department, derived principally from the last collections of Mr. Charles Wright in New Mexico, Sonora and Cohahuila; from the Texano-Mexican herbarium of Berlandier; from the Collection of Ervendberg in the province of Huasteca, and other Mexican plants from the collection of Drs. Gregg and Coulter, besides a small number from the North American British provinces.

1864.]

This herbarium is, perhaps, not excelled in the scientific world for the magnificence, freshness and completeness of its specimens, and the costly style with which it has been fitted up. It is contained in upwards of three hundred wooden cases, elegantly shaped in the form of folio volumes, each volume averaging from thirty to fifty specimens, enclosed separately in sheets of fine white paper; the large *genera* or several of the kindred genera under a colored cover, and the American kept apart from the European, each in its portfolio.

The tropical plants are yet in numerous unopened packages, consisting of Holton's *Flora Neo-Granadina*, 1852-53; Fendler's *Plantæ Venezuelanæ*, 1854-57; Couthony and Jameson's *Plants of the Andes of Quito*; R. C. Alexander's *Plantæ Jamaicensis*; Ch. Wright's *Plantæ Cubenses*, &c., &c. When these collections are properly arranged, they will constitute an almost complete equatorial herbarium of about 6000 species.

Besides the above collections, I have to mention a package of East India Ferns, collected by Dr. Griffith; another of Australian Algæ, with other minor packages of Cryptogamous plants, and the two fine volumes of American *Musci et Hepaticæ* by Mr. Wm. S. Sullivan, all derived from the splendid Short-Herbarium.

Mr. Ashmead's collection of Algæ is, I believe, principally composed of American species. It is neatly set up in twelve elegant cases, in the form of quarto volumes.

The Lesquereux's collection is particularly valuable, containing over 700 species authenticated by the best Algologists of the age, Messrs. Lenormand, Desmazières, Agardh, Mongeot, Meklenbeck, Bonjean and others, among which Mr. Lesquereux's name is not to be passed in silence.

Respectfully,
E. DURAND,
Chairman of the Botanical Committee.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was held, in accordance with the By-Laws, with the following result:

<i>President</i>	ROBERT BRIDGES, M. D.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Wm. S. Vaux. John Cassin.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Thomas Stewardson, M. D.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	B. Howard Rand, M. D.
<i>Librarian</i>	J. D. Sergeant.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Wm. C. Henszey.
<i>Curators</i>	Joseph Leidy, M. D. Wm. S. Vaux, John Cassin, J. D. Sergeant.
<i>Auditors</i>	Wm. S. Vaux, Joseph Jeanes, Aubrey H. Smith.
<i>Publication Committee</i>	Wm. S. Vaux, Isaac Lea, Robert Bridges, M. D. Joseph Leidy, M. D. Thomas Stewardson, M. D.

[Dec.